

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep Ryan: Rowayton Theater Group Receives State Grant



State Representative John J. Ryan, R-Darien, announced the state today provided \$17,287 in grant funds for the Shakespeare on the Sound organization, located in Rowayton. The funding, which assists the theater in its operating budget, is provided by the state's Commission on Culture and Tourism.

Shakespeare on the Sound is committed to producing affordable, professional, open-air productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and related authors in Fairfield County. Performances have been staged in Rowayton's Pinkney Park since 1996 and more than 80,000 theater-goers and several thousand schoolchildren have benefited from the programs.

Working in collaboration with area civic, business and education institutions, the goal of Shakespeare on the Sound is to bring great dramatic works to a broad audience, creating a forum for learning, appreciation and celebration. Since its inception, the program has presented *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Winter's Tale*. In July 2005, the organization presented *The Tempest*.

"Shakespeare on the Sound' not only brings together a large and diverse group of individuals to work on a terrific community cause," said Rep. Ryan. "Its excellent productions are staged in an idyllic outdoor setting in Pinkney Park. Also, one should keep in mind that the messages of Shakespeare's timeless works are as important today as they were centuries ago. We are fortunate to have this dedicated organization in our midst."